



February 14, 2022

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB528 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

Quaker Voice of Maryland supports SB528, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

Globally, we are at a juncture that will determine the course of our future forever. Climate change is here, and we are the last generation that will be able to change the course of the earth towards a livable future for all. We have the tools, resources and knowledge, and leadership to act right now.

Quaker Voice was formed by Quaker Meetings throughout Maryland to give Maryland Quakers a stronger voice in state-level issues that speak to our values. Our faith as Quakers is entwined with our commitment to stewardship of the Earth and care for our natural resources. We see how the misuse and destruction of these resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and well-being, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for the care of our planet Earth. We love this world as God's gift to us all. As citizens of the United States and Maryland, we understand that we represent the wealthiest of the world's population. As such, we acknowledge our obligation as well as the opportunity to reduce the rate of destructive climate changes and at the same time invest in clean energy production, healthier communities, green infrastructure, and transportation that is not reliant on carbon producing vehicles.

For many years scientists around the globe have been urging action on climate change with increasing alarm regarding the rate of change that is now at a crisis level. Here in Maryland, we have a lot at stake, with ever increasing incidences of destructive and life-threatening nuisance flooding, high heat days, and storm surges. We can no longer ignore the impact of air polluting emissions of carbon dioxide and methane on frontline communities in Maryland where residents and workers experience the highest rates of asthma and other respiratory illness in the State. Maryland State agencies have begun the work of establishing foundations from which we may respond to and mitigate the impact of this change. However, we must move towards a policy of healing and preventing further harm. We have an opportunity to act on the advice of scientists now while signaling to the nation that Maryland is ready to embrace the new green economy. There is no more time to delay on meaningful climate action.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Dona Sorce

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